

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 92, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

(1) According to the compositions shown in Tables [[1]] 11 through [[3]] 13, all of the components except the blowing agent d-1, that is, the block copolymers 2, 3, 6 or 7, the acrylic resin 1, and the softener c-1, were mixed in respective combinations. The components were premixed together in a Henschel mixer and the resulting mixture was fed to a twin screw extruder (TEM-35B, manufactured by Toshiba Machine Co., Ltd.) where it was kneaded at 230°C for about 3 minutes and was extruded into strands. The extruded strands were then cut to form pellets of the polymer composition. The MFR of each composition was determined as described above and is shown in Tables 11 through 13 below.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 95, line 7-8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In comparison, in the foam composition of Comparative Example [[1]] 20 and the foam formed thereof, the ratio (by mass) of the acrylic resin 1 to the block copolymer 2 lies outside the range given by the relationship (1) although they contain the softener c-1 in a proportion that satisfies the relationship (2). The composition and the foam made thereof exhibit good foamability but are less favorable in terms of scratch resistance, abrasion resistance and compression permanent set at 70°C (heat resistance).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 95, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foam composition of Comparative Example [[2]] 21 and the foam formed thereof, the ratio (by mass) of the acrylic resin 1 to the block copolymer 2 falls within the range given by the relationship (1), but the proportion (by mass) of the softener c-1 does not satisfy the relationship (2). The foam composition and the foam formed thereof show poor scratch resistance and poor abrasion resistance.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 95, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foam composition of Comparative Example [[3]] 22 and the foam formed thereof, the ratio (by mass) of the acrylic resin 1 to the block copolymer 7 falls within the range given by the relationship (1) and the proportion (by mass) of the softener c-1 satisfies the relationship (2). In this foam composition, however, the polymer block A to form the block copolymer 7 is polystyrene, and thus the foam composition and the foam formed thereof are less favorable in terms of scratch resistance, abrasion resistance, and compression permanent set at 70°C (heat resistance).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 96, line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foam composition of Comparative Example [[4]] 23 and the foam formed thereof, the ratio (by mass) of the acrylic resin 1 to the block copolymer 6 falls within the range given by the relationship (1) and the proportion (by mass) of the softener c-1 satisfies the relationship (2). In this foam composition, however, the weight average molecular weight of the block copolymer 6 is less than 30,000, and thus the foam composition and the foam formed thereof exhibit poor compression permanent set at 70°C (heat resistance),

though they show foamability, scratch resistance, and abrasion resistance in a well-balanced manner.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 96, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foam composition of Comparative Example 5 24 and the foam formed thereof, the ratio (by mass) of the acrylic resin 1 to the block copolymer 3 falls within the range given by the relationship (1) and the proportion (by mass) of the softener c-1 satisfies the relationship (2). In this foam composition, however, the weight average molecular weight of the block copolymer 3 is larger than 200,000, and thus the foam composition and the foam formed thereof are less favorable in terms of scratch resistance and abrasion resistance though they show superior compression permanent set at 70°C (heat resistance). They also lack proper foamability. For this reason, more foam composition must be introduced into the metal frame than in the other Examples to obtain the sheet foam with the size of the metal frame.

Please amend Table 3 at page 72 as follows:

Table 3

	Comparative Example 1	Comparative Example 2	Comparative Example 3	Comparative Example 4	Comparative Example 5	Comparative Example 6	Comparative Example 7
Polymer composition (part by mass)							
(a) Block copolymer							
Block copolymer 1	<u>30</u> 30	<u>24</u> 24	<u>70</u> 70	<u>27</u> 27	70	54	35
Block copolymer 3							
Block copolymer 5							
(b) Acrylic resin							
Acrylic resin 1	70	56		18	30	36	23
Acrylic resin 2							
(c) Softener C-1							
Diana Process PW-380		20	30	55		10	42
Scratch resistance (μm)	15	19	9.8	20	10.9	12.5	11.6
Taber abrasion (mm ³)	230	272	321	>500	412	453	248
Total transmittance (%)	82.6	87.0	91.7	92.2	83.4	87.8	67.1
Tensile permanent set (%)	fracture	5.0	0.0	0.0	4.7	4.0	5.0
Hardness (Type A)	98	82	38	8	85	70	55
Breaking strength (MPa)	5.1	9.8	22.4	5.0	15.2	13.1	77
MFR (g/10min)	57	>100	61	>100	0.6	1.9	0.1
Dispersed particle size (μm)	N/A	N/A	-	0.80	0.21	0.18	N/A